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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/126,884 07/31/98 BERTRAM

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2661

DATE MAILED:

11/06/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/126,884

Applicant(s)

BERTRAM ET AL.

Examiner

Brian D Nguyen

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on the amendment filed 10/9/01.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2661

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Slattery (6,246,701).

Regarding claim 1, Slattery discloses a method for forming a transport stream having a bit rate BR and N slots, each of the N slots being associated with a respective plurality of non-contiguous transport packets and being separated by N-1 transport packets. The stream includes one or more programs where each program has a bit rate of BR/N. In case of less than N programs being included within the transport stream, NULL packets forming NULL programs are included (see abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 12-14; col. 5, lines 48-50; col. 9, line 47-col. 10, line 7; col. 10, lines 27-44; and col. 40, lines 28-30).

Regarding claims 2-6, Slattery further discloses examining and replacing NULL packets/programs with replacement packets/programs by inserting the replacement

Art Unit: 2661

packets/programs into an output transport stream (see abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 12-14; col. 5, lines 48-50; col. 9, line 47-col. 10, line 7; col. 10, lines 27-44; and col. 40, lines 28-30).

Regarding claims 7-11, Slattery discloses an apparatus for generating N programs to produce a slotted transport stream having N slots comprising a transport clock source, N transport encoders, a multiplexer for sequentially multiplexing one transport packet from each respective transport encoded program streams to form the slotted transport stream, wherein each transport packet from a single stream is separated by N-1 transport packets, N buffer memories, a switch coupled to the N buffer memories for selectively coupling to an output to produce the slotted transport stream, and a file server coupled between the multiplexer and the N transport encoders (see abstract; Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 12-14; col. 5, lines 48-50; col. 9, line 47-col. 10, line 7; col. 10, lines 27-44; col. 29, line 41-col. 30, line 7; and col. 40, lines 28-30). Slattery implicitly discloses a frequency divider to divide a timing signal CLK from the transport clock source into N timing signals so as the bit rate of the slotted transport stream will be equal to the sum of the bit rates of the N slots.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 10/9/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Slattery fails to disclose the limitation of "each of said respective non-contiguous transport packets being separated by N-1 transport packets" and "wherein each transport encoded program is associated with one of said N slots and has a bit rate of BR/N ".

Art Unit: 2661

This argument is not persuasive because Slattery's transport stream comprises one or more programs (audio-video programs) and the sequence of N slots containing program transport packets in the slotted transport stream are repeated. In other words, each of the respective non-contiguous transport packets being separated by N-1 transport packets. Each of the encoded transport program has a bit rate of BR/N because Slattery's transport stream is formed as a sequence of fixed length transport packets (see col. 6, lines 11-16). Applicant is reminded that when N is equal to 1, then there is no separation between the transport packets.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2661

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-5133. The examiner can normally be reach on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Olms, can be reach on (703) 305-4703. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patens and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 872-9314 (for informal or draft communications, please label

“PROPOSED” or DRAFT”)

Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive,
Arlington VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Application/Control Number: 09/126,884

Page 6

Art Unit: 2661

Oct. 24, 2001

BN

Brian Nguyen

DM

DANG TON
PRIMARY EXAMINER